

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

12. (New) A base station apparatus forming a communication network that is identified by a unique network identifier, the base station apparatus comprising:

an investigator that investigates a network identifier used by an existing base station apparatus;

a table that associates and stores the network identifier used by said existing base station apparatus and a communication network that said existing base station apparatus forms; and

an assigner that assigns a network identifier to said base station apparatus with reference to the table,

wherein when said base station apparatus and said existing base station apparatus form a same communication network, the assigner assigns the network identifier used by said existing base station apparatus to said base station apparatus.

13. (New) The base station apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when said base station apparatus and said existing base station apparatus form different communication networks, the assigner assigns a network identifier, unused by said existing base station apparatus and different from the network identifier used by said existing base station apparatus to said base station apparatus.

14. (New) The base station apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

a setter that sets an extending identifier and increases a number of bits for use for a network identifier, when a result of investigation by the investigator shows that there is no unused network identifier and that said base station apparatus and said existing base station apparatus form different communication networks,

wherein the assigner assigns the extending identifier and the increased number of bits as a network identifier to the communication network of said base station apparatus.

15. (New) The base station apparatus of claim 12, wherein:
the investigator comprises a receiver that receives a signal transmitted from a communication terminal apparatus on a regular

basis, said signal comprising content of the table that is reported from said existing base station apparatus to the communication terminal apparatus, and

the assigner updates the table with the content of the table in the signal.

16. (New) The base station apparatus of claim 12, wherein the investigator investigates a state of use of network identifiers based on network identifier information transmitted from said existing base station apparatus.

17. (New) The base station apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a scrambler that performs scrambling processing on network identifiers.

18. (New) A network identifier assignment method in a base station apparatus forming a communication network that is identified by a unique network identifier, said method comprising:

investigating a network identifier used by an existing base station apparatus;

associating and storing in a table the network identifier used by said existing base station apparatus and a communication network that said existing base station apparatus forms; and

assigning a network identifier to said base station apparatus with reference to the table,

wherein when said base station apparatus and said existing base station apparatus form a same communication network, the network identifier used by said existing base station apparatus is assigned to said base station apparatus.